SHRI JIBON ROY: If I have said anything, I beg your apology ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, nothing will go on record ...*(Interruptions)*... You go on commenting on the Chairman ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JIBON ROY: Sir, I had no such intention ...*(Interruptions)*... I beg your apology ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record ...*(Interruptions)*...

डा॰ सत्यनारायण जटिया: सभापति जी, यह एक महत्वपूर्ण प्रश्न है जिसमें कि असंगठित क्षेत्र के बारे में जो चिंताएं व्यक्त की जा रही हैं उनसे सरकार अवगत है और सरकार की पूरी कोशिश होगी। असंगठित क्षेत्र के मजदूरों को पूरी तरह से प्रोटेक्शन देने की दृष्टि से उनकी सामाजिक सुरक्षा करने का प्रबंध करने की दृष्टि से सरकार हर प्रकार के, हर संभव कदम उठाने के लिए तैयार है। मैं माननीय सदस्यों से निवेदन करना चाहूंगा कि इस संदर्भ में उनकी जो चिंताएं हैं उनसे मुझे अवगत कराएं, निश्चित रूप से मैं इस क्षेत्र में जो कुछ भी उनके लिए कर सकता हूं, अधिक से अधिक करने की कोशिश करूंगा।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Adequate Storage Capacity for the Paddy Crop

*263. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any arrangements for adequate godown capacity before the paddy crop comes in market in next few months;

(b) whether Government have streamlined its machinery for procurement of paddy from farmers so that they are not forced to resort to distress sale; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR): (a) to (c) The Central Government has advised the Food Corporation of India (FCI) as well as the concerned State Governments to create

additional storage capacity for the forthcoming Kharif season. FCI has given seven years guarantee for creation of additional storage capacity of 61 lakh tonnes in four major procuring States. The field officers of FCI have also been delegated full powers for hiring of storage capacity as and when necessary.

Before the commencement of each Kharif Marketing Season, consultations are held with the concerned State Governments and FCI officials with a view to ensuring smooth procurement of paddy/ rice. A meeting was held with the Food Secretaries of major procuring States and FCI officials in this regard on June 21, 2001. Another meeting is scheduled to be held on August 16, 2001. Adequate number of purchase centres will be opened in consultation with the State Governments. Wide publicity will be given about procurement prices, FAQ Specifications and purchase centres. In order to monitor closely the Minimum Support Prices Scheme, special Control Rooms will be set up in the FCI at its Headquarters and Regional Offices.

Supply of Food Items to BPL Population in Himachal Pradesh

*264. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether wheat, rice, sugar and other items are being supplied through PDS at reasonable rates for the people living Below Poverty Line in Himachal Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR): (a) and (b) According to information received from the Sate Government, there are 2,98,181 families living below the poverty line (BPL) in Himachal Pradesh, including 78,700 families identified under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana. The scale and rates at which wheat, rice, sugar and other items are being supplied to these families under PDS are as under: